

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01

RSR-01 /129 W

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O 251505 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0744

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAN THO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DANANG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SAIGON 07195

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS PGOV, PINS, PINT, PARM, PFOR, MAAR VS

SUBJECT: GVN FONMIN COMMENT ON GVN' S PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR
POLITICAL SETTLEMENT

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. GVN FONMIN TRANG VAN LAM HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE LATE AFTERNOON
APRIL 25 TO ANNOUNCE THE GVN' S PRESENTATION OF A DRAFT " PRELIMINARY
ACCORD ON PRINCIPLES BETWEEN THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES"

AIMED

AT A FINAL POLITICAL SOLUTION IN SOUTH VIET- NAM (TEXT OF HIS

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STATEMENT, THE DRAFT ACCORD AND TIMETABLE REPORTED SEPTEL). LAM MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS;

2. THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT NOR DOES IT REPRESENT A CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS GVN POLICY OR GVN APPROACHES TO THE TALKS AND THE PROBLEM OF A POLITICAL SOLUTION. WHEN ASKED DIRECTLY WHETHER THIS PROPOSED AGREEMENT IS A SHARP DEPARTURE, LAM REPLIED "NOT AT ALL."

3. THE LEADERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MUST ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER THE NCNRC'S WRITING AN ELECTION LAW INFRINGES ON THE ASSEMBLY'S CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS. IF THE NCNRC'S ELECTION LAW RUNS AGAINST THE RVN CONSTITUTION, THE ASSEMBLY MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE LAW (AND CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION ACCORDINGLY) OR TO REJECT THE LAW AND THUS RISK LOSING THIS CHANCE TO BRING PEACE TO VIETNAM. LAM TWICE NOTED THAT THIS IS "A SERIOUS CHOICE" FOR THE ASSEMBLY TO MAKE, AND PUT THE ONUS ON THE ASSEMBLY TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF A LOST PEACE SHOULD ASSEMBLY LEADERS INSIST ON THEIR PREROGATIVES.

4. THE "REPRESENTATIVE ORGAN" TO BE CREATED BY THE GENERAL ELECTIONS IS AN ENTIRELY SEPARATE ENTITY FROM THE NCNRC. LAM DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE EXACT NATURE OF THIS ORGAN, DECLINING EVEN TO CHARACTERIZE IT AS A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OR A LEGISLATIVE BODY. HE MAINTAINED THAT WHILE THE GVN HAS ITS OWN IDEAS ABOUT WHAT THIS BODY SHOULD BE, HE DID NOT WANT TO REVEAL THEM PUBLICLY IN ORDER NOT TO IMPOSE LIMITS ON THE OTHER SIDE OR SET UNNECESSARY PARAMETERS ON THE COMING DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS.

5. THERE WOULD BE NO LIMITATION OR DIMINUTION OF THE GVN'S PRESENT POWERS NOR RELINQUISHMENT OF POWER BY PRESIDENT THIEU BETWEEN NOW AND THE GENERAL ELECTIONS CALLED FOR IN THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT.

6. WITH RESPECT TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF "NON-SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS" LAM REFERRED TO ARTICLE 13 OF THE JANUARY PARIS CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND NOTED THAT THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF FOREIGN TROOPS THREATENED THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S FREE EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION. THE EXACT NUMBER OF TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN WILL BE LEFT TO THE TWO SIDES TO DECIDE IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS; THE

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TAGS: PARM, PFOR, PGOV, PINS, PINT
To: BANGKOK
BIEN HOA
BUDAPEST
CAN THO
DANANG
EA
JAKARTA

NHA TRANG
SECSTATE WASHDC

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